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MADAGASCAN FOREIGN TRADE DURING THE FIRST 7 MONTHS OF 1952

During the first 7 months of 1952, Madagascar's foreign trade continued the trend set in 1951, which was characterized by increased imports, a lag in exports, and a larger deficit in the foreign trade balance. Comparative statistics for the first 7 months of 1952 and 1951 are as follows:

	1952		1951	
	Volume (tons)	Value (CFA francs)	Volume (tons)	Value (CFA francs)
Imports	245,139	13,116,000,000	223,992	11,713,000,000
Exports	77,940	6,024,000,000	70,448	6,164,000,000

The deficit in the foreign trade balance, which was 5,549,000,000 CFA francs in 1951, is now 7,092,000,000 francs and is expected to climb to about 9 billion CFA francs by the end of 1952.

Imports

In general, imports showed an increase in 1952. Increases were especially noted in fertilizers, soaps, insecticides, wine (in barrels), and sugar refining machinery. On the other hand, decreases were noted in textiles, railroad equipment, trucks, navigation equipment, electrical equipment, condensed milk, and alcoholic beverages. Nevertheless, the total import tonnage for 1952 will far exceed that of 1951. These large imports in 1952, creating large stockpiles and an unfavorable trade balance, will probably cause a decline in imports in 1953.

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A comparison of imports for the first 7 months of 1952 and 1951 follows
(in tons):

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Textiles	3,254	5,937
Transportation equipment	5,327	6,471
Metals	17,283	18,950
Metal products	11,837	8,609
Electrical equipment	1,199	1,566
Machinery	5,507	3,762
Petroleum products	43,146	36,225
Chemical products	7,901	6,235
Cement	60,184	52,973
Paper products	2,039	911
Dairy products	824	1,269
Beverages	14,567	11,618

Exports

Exports for 1952 showed an increase in volume and a decrease in value. The increase in volume was due mainly to rice shipments, which rose from 739 tons in 1951 to 14,248 in 1952. The decrease in value was caused by a general decline in shipments of large export items, as well as a price reduction on sisal and hides.

Following is a comparison of exports for the first 7 months of 1952 and 1951 (in tons):

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Rice	14,248	739
Sisal	3,801	2,739
Cloves	2,198	5,726
Oil of cloves	462	362
Oil of ilang-ilang	14	12
Peanuts	2,480	1,446
Pepper	133	86
Corn	3,773	518
Castor beans	547	923
Castor oil	254	36
Cocoa	176	129
Peas	3,282	3,401
Coffee	10,289	12,710
Raffia	2,433	2,919
Beans	646	1,215
Vanilla	209	263
Manioc, unprocessed	1,068	1,193
Manioc, flour	1,182	3,005
Tapioca	1,806	4,622
Tobacco	182	234
Paka	--	562
Paka sacks	102	475
Croton seed	--	998
Copra	--	161
Sugar	70	14
Molasses	1,113	--

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<u>Commodity</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Aleurite oil	138	136
Shellfish	78	82
Cattle (head)	1,703	1,126
Beef, frozen	1,249	1,017
Beef, canned	1,406	2,314
Hides, tanned	142	73
Hides, cattle, raw	1,976	2,583
Hides, crocodile	43	122
Graphite	10,762	9,604
Mica	405	275
Garnets	314	270
Beryllium ore	227	151
Rum (hectoliters)	3,351	3,270
Wax	128	205
Matting	52	67
Twine and rope (sisal)	289	--
Cloth, paka	7	226
Iron, scrap	530	--

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